



Congressman Ben Cardin

Maryland's Third District



Congressman Ben Cardin - Maryland's Third District

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Dear Friends,

Earlier this month, all Medicare beneficiaries started to receive information about the new Medicare prescription drug plans that will be available to them on Jan. 1, 2006. Maryland seniors face a dizzying array of choices: 47 different plans with different lists of prescriptions that will be covered, and with monthly premiums that will vary from \$6.44 to \$68.91.

I voted against the 2003 **Medicare Modernization Act** because it did not offer a guaranteed prescription drug benefit through Medicare, with set premiums, deductibles, and co-payments. Instead, the 2003 law subsidizes private companies who in turn offer policies in which they can determine premiums, deductibles, co-payments and even which drugs are covered.

On Nov. 15, seniors can begin to enroll in the prescription drug plan of their choice. Unfortunately, the promotional information from the federal government and materials from private companies are often difficult to understand and interpret. For that reason, I urge all Medicare beneficiaries to contact their local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) or Center of Medicare/Medicare Services (CMS) at the following numbers:

- **Anne Arundel County SHIP – 410- 222-4464**
- **Baltimore City SHIP – 410-396-2273**
- **Baltimore County SHIP – 410-887-2059**
- **Howard County SHIP – 410-313-7213**
- **Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services**
www.medicare.gov or 1-800-633-4227

I also urge all seniors and their caregivers to be careful of scam artists who may use this opportunity to take advantage of some of our most vulnerable citizens. I strongly urge seniors not to give out their Social Security number, Medicare number, or any health or financial data to anyone who calls them unsolicited.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress



REP. CARDIN RECEIVES AWARD FOR LEGISLATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN HEALTH CARE

Rep. Cardin receives the Recognition Award from the Maryland Chapter of American College of Physicians for his work on behalf of Maryland internists and their patients. The Congressman Cardin was instrumental in getting cancer screenings and other preventive benefits included in the Medicare program. From left, Mary Ellen Woodward, the Congressman, Mary Newman and Phillip Mackowiak.

Yes, please send me these informational E-News Updates in the future.*

Join Now

*Please note that your E-mail address will not be shared with anyone.

Previous Survey Question Results

Do you support canceling or delaying any additional tax cuts to pay for the costs associated with Hurricane Katrina?

Answer	Percent
Yes	60.39%
No	30.61%
Total	100%

New Survey Question

Would you support legislation allowing the federal government to negotiate with drug companies to get lower drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries?

Yes

No

If you are having trouble, [click here.](#)

Contact Information

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